

Claims

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for providing a user interface control to modify properties of items within a
2 main application window, the method comprising:

3 rendering a list of control objects each of the control objects in the list of control
4 objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection portion and potentially an additional
5 properties portion with one or more control;

6 receiving a selection mouse click upon a selection portion of the first control object;
7 and

8 applying the control properties of the first control object to one or more selected
9 items within the main application window.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

2 receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of a control object, the
3 control object being located within the rendered list of control objects; and
4 modifying one or more control object properties or applying the item in a different
5 way in response to the properties mouse click upon the properties portion of the control
6 object.

1 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving a propertied mouse click
2 comprises:

3 receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of an control object, the
4 control object being located within the rendered list of control objects;

5 rendering a pop-up menu, the pop-up menu having one or more menu items;

6 receiving a menu-item mouse click upon one of the one or more menu items;

7 determining an identity of a selected menu item from the location of the menu-item
8 mouse click; and

9 applying the selected menu item.

1 4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the pop-up menu is a contextual
2 menu having menu items determined by a current state of the control object.

1 5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the list of control objects is rendered
2 within a scrollable window.

1 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the scrollable window containing the
2 list of control objects is scrollable in vertical direction.

1 7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the scrollable window is resizable.
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1 8. A method for providing a user interface control to modify properties of items
2 within a main application window, the method comprising:

3 rendering a list of control objects, each of the control objects in the list of control
4 objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection portion and a properties portion and one
5 or more control properties;

6 \curvearrowleft receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of a first control object,
7 the first control object being located within the rendered list of control objects;

8 \curvearrowleft rendering a pop-up menu, the pop-up menu having one or more menu items;
9 \curvearrowleft receiving a menu-item mouse click upon one of the one or more menu items;
10 determining an identity of a selected menu item from the menu-item mouse click;
11 performing an action based upon the selected menu item;

12 \curvearrowleft receiving a selection mouse click upon a selection portion of the first control object;
13 and
14 applying the control properties of the control object;
15 \curvearrowleft wherein the pop-up menu is a contextual menu having menu items determined by a
16 current state of the control object;

17 \curvearrowleft the list of control objects is rendered within a scrollable window;

18 \curvearrowleft the scrollable window containing the list of control objects is scrollable in vertical
19 direction; and

20 \curvearrowleft the scrollable window is resizable.

1 A computer program data product readable by a computing system and
2 encoding instructions for providing a user interface control to modify properties of items
3 within a main application window, the method comprising:

4 rendering a list of control objects, each of the control objects in the list of control
5 objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection portion and a properties portion and one
6 or more control properties that affect one or more items within the main application window;

7 receiving a selection mouse click upon a selection portion of the first control object;
8 and

9 applying the control properties of the first control object to one or more selected
10 items within the main application window.

1 10. The computer data product according to claim 9, wherein receiving a
2 propertied mouse click comprises:

3 receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of a first control object,
4 the first control object being located within the rendered list of control objects;

5 rendering a pop-up menu, the pop-up menu having one or more menu items;

6 receiving a menu-item mouse click upon one of the one or more menu items;

7 determining an identity of a selected menu item from the location of the menu-item
8 mouse click; and

9 modifying one or more control object properties based upon the selected menu item.

1 *4+5+7* 11. The computer data product according to claim 10, wherein the pop-up menu is
2 a contextual menu having menu items determined by a current state of the first control object
3 and the list of control objects is rendered within a scrollable window that may be resized.

1 12. The computer data product according to claim 11, wherein the scrollable
2 window containing the list of control objects is scrollable in the vertical direction.

1 13. The computer data product according to claim 12, wherein the scrollable
2 window is automatically resizable to an expanded size in response to a mouse click upon a
3 fly-out input control.

1 14. The computer data product according to claim 13, wherein the computer data
2 product is a computer readable storage medium.

1 15. A computing system for providing a user interface control to modify
2 properties of items within a main application window, the computing system comprising:
3 a main application window containing one or more application items, each application
4 item having one or more control properties affecting a behavior of the application item;
5 a gallery control window containing a list of one or more control objects for modifying
6 control properties of the application items located within the main application window, each
7 of the control objects in the list of control objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection

8 portion and a properties portion and one or more control properties that affect one or more
9 items within the main application window;
10 a control object selection processing module for modifying one or more application
11 items within the main application window based upon current values of control properties of
12 a selected control object selected using a mouse click located upon a selection portion of the
13 selected control object; and
14 a control object focus processing module for modifying current values of control
15 properties of a focus control object identified using a mouse click located upon a properties
16 portion of the focus control object.

1 16. The computing system according to claim 15, wherein the control object focus
2 module comprises:
3 a focus control processing module for processing mouse moves and clicks received
4 from focus control objects;
5 a control focus property module for retrieving current values of control properties for
6 the focus control object and modifying control properties for the focus control object;
7 a control contextual menu module for providing a contextual list of control properties
8 to be modified, the contents of the contextual list is determined based upon current values of
9 control properties for the focus control object; and

10 a control contextual menu option data store for maintaining contextual list data for use
11 by the control contextual menu module.

1 17. The computing system according to claim 15, wherein the control object
2 selection processing module comprises:

3 a selection control processing module for processing mouse clicks received from
4 selection control objects;

5 a gallery control window rendering processing module for constructing a visual
6 representation for the gallery control window;

7 a gallery control scrolling window for controlling the size and position of a visible
8 portion of the list of one or more control objects;

9 a gallery most-recently used module for maintaining a separate list of recently used
10 control objects that is concatenated to the list of one or more control object before
11 presentation to a user by the gallery control window rendering processing module; and

12 a gallery control fly-out module for controlling the size of the gallery control window
13 as a multi-dimensional collection of control objects.

1 18. The computing system according to claim 17, wherein the gallery control
2 window is automatically resizable to an expanded size in response to a mouse click upon a
3 fly-out input control.